

Technology and Integrated Discipline Engineering Services (TIDES)

Questions and Responses #2

1. Question: Will the government clarify how a Time and Material (T&M) subcontractor should complete Exhibits 2A and 2B?

Response: If the T&M subcontractor meets the threshold for a significant subcontractor, then it shall provide all of the requested information in the exhibits required for significant subcontractors. Although the intended subcontract is T&M, NASA must still evaluate the subcontract costs to determine reasonableness/realism and potential cost risk, which requires insight into the cost elements comprising the T&M rates.

2. Question: The 7th paragraph, 2nd sentence states “If significant subcontractors are proposed, identify their interfaces to your organizational structure and provide: 1) a separate organization chart for each subcontractor... Will the government confirm that the requirement to submit a separate organization chart is for significant subcontractor only (based on the definition of a significant subcontractors in the cost volume instructions) not all subcontractors? Additionally, are the references to “subcontractor” in the remainder of that first sentence, pertinent to only a significant subcontractor or all proposed subcontractors.

Response: Yes, The references of subcontractor in that paragraph pertains to “significant subcontractors” as defined in the cost volume instructions.

3. The definition of significant subcontractors is referenced three times in the draft RFP:
L.12 (a)(2) Offerors and proposed significant subcontractors, defined as any subcontractor that is estimated to exceed 10% of the Government Pricing Model (GPM) total estimated cost to submit a cost proposal to their DCAA office.
L.15.1 ...For the purposes of the Cost Volume, a significant subcontractor is defined as a subcontractor expected to exceed 10% or more of the Government Pricing Model (GPM) total estimated cost value.
L.16 For the purposes of the Past Performance Volume, a proposed significant subcontractor is defined as any proposed subcontractor that is estimated to meet/exceed an average annual cost/fee of \$2M...
Will the government confirm that for the reference to “significant subcontractor” in RFP Section L.14.3 Subfactor B (Management Approach), Offerors should use definition #1 above?

Response: The definitions described in L.12(a)(2) and L.15.1 in the Cost Volume of the Final RFP should be used to determine a significant contractor as referenced in Section L.14.3.

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4. Question To remove any redundancy, will the government consider moving the second part of the sentence in 2 to the end of 3? Therefore, the RFP would read: 2) the basis for selection of the subcontractor, 3) the nature and extent of the work to be performed by the subcontractor including split of responsibilities and the potential percentages of work to be performed?

Response: The final RFP has been revised to read: “The offeror shall describe its strategy for using (or not using) significant subcontractors (based on the definition of a significant subcontractor in the cost volume instructions). If significant subcontractors are proposed, identify their interfaces to your organizational structure and provide: 1) a separate organization chart for each significant subcontractor, 2) the basis for selection of the significant subcontractor, 3) the nature and extent of the work to be performed by the significant subcontractor, including split of responsibilities and the potential percentages of work to be performed 4) the benefits of these arrangements to the Government, and 5) methods of management and reporting to GSFC of significant subcontractors' financial and technical plans and performance. The offeror shall discuss its plans for addressing any problems that arise as a result of the proposed organization structure or poor and/or non-performance of subcontracted portions of the contract.”

5. The draft RFP states: (6) Subcontractor Listing: The Offeror shall provide a summary listing (by name and address) of all subcontractors (regardless of dollar value) that have been identified throughout the Offeror's proposal and the subcontract value associated with each entity (GPM value and RTO value).

Please confirm that if a subcontractor is identified that is not a teammate, they do not need to be included in this listing e.g., a subcontractor that is referenced in the past performance volume or a subcontractor that is referenced in corporate experience write-ups or a subcontractor that the Offeror includes in a list of niche/specialty subcontractors that the Offeror would utilize if the need did arise on the contract but is not priced in Exhibit-1A or 1B?

Response: The above assumption is correct.

6. The current METS II contract has approximately 24 cleared personnel; 5 Top Secret and 19 Secret supporting current contract requirements on multiple tasks. Because the government has responded to Q&A #20 that “**The Government has reviewed the requirements of the SOW and has determined the following clause SECURITY CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (1852.204-75) (SEP 1989) is not necessary for performance of this contract.**”

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There are multiple requirements on the prime bidder and the principals of the prime bidder that must be evaluated by DSS and met in order for the bidding entity to receive a Facility Clearance and perform cleared work at the Secret and/or Top Secret level. Based on recent history, it may take as long as 9 months or longer to receive a Facility clearance from the time of submittal to DSS after award of a contract and before the classified work can be performed.

What is NASA's intention if the DSS determines that that prime entity does not qualify for a Facility clearance at the Secret and/or Top Secret level? Even if the Facility clearance is approved, please explain the government's intention of how this ongoing classified work will be performed during the 9 months (or longer) evaluation period by DSS that may not start until after contract award?

Response: The Government has reviewed the requirements and does not anticipate any future work performed under the TIDES procurement to need security clearance.

7. Reference TIDES Q&A responses on 10 October 2014 to Question #1; The "TIDES Update" posted on 10/3/2014 stated that "the TIDES RFP is expected to be released on or about the week of October 27, 2014". The Government's response to question #1 states that "the RFP is scheduled to be released the week of October 20". This same answer (RFP release on Oct 20, 2014) was provided for TIDES Q#17. Would the Government please clear up this contradiction and confirm the intended actual release date of the TIDES RFP?

Response: The RFP is expected to be released the week of October 20, 2014.

8. Reference TIDES Questions and Answers posted October 10, 2014. Can the Government please clarify its answer to question #23? The Government's response is as follows, "**The DRFP is correct, please refer to the cost section and cost matrices required**". The reference to the Cost Section and Cost Matrices does not appear to address the SOW requirements question being asked. Is this the Government's intended response to this question? If this is the Government's intended response please provide more detail to specifically point to the cost section/cost matrices being referenced and explain how this is relevant to the question. Also, please reference SEAS Q&A number 6 (posted on Oct 6, 2014) which asks the same question for which the Government's response was to remove the SOW

Response: The final RFP is revised to state "The proposal shall include a matrix showing where in the proposal the evaluation criteria of this RFP are satisfied." No matrices are required in Volume I, matrices required for Volume III are specified in section L.15 of the RFP.